

## Severity of Alcohol Dependence Questionnaire (SADQ)

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The SADQ is a short, easy-to-complete, self-administered, 20-item questionnaire designed to measure severity of dependence on alcohol as formulated by Edwards & Gross (1976) and Edwards (1978). There are five subscales with four items in each: Physical Withdrawal, Affective Withdrawal, Withdrawal Relief Drinking, Alcohol Consumption, and Rapidity of Reinstatement. Each item is scored on a 4-point scale, ranging from “Almost Never” to “Nearly Always,” resulting in a corresponding score of 0 to 3. Thus the total maximum score possible is 60 and the minimum is 0.

### TARGET POPULATION

☒ Adults

☐ Adolescents

#### **Groups for which this instrument might be especially helpful?**

The original SADQ as first described in 1979 and further refined in 1983 is designed purely for use with populations of problem drinkers attending treatment facilities of various kinds. The SADQ has been widely used with such groups, and norms exist for inpatient treatment units, outpatient clinics, community-based services, and controlled drinking program attenders, to name but a few. A more recent version of the SADQ (SADQ-C) has been developed for use in general health settings and in population surveys.

### ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Number of items: 20

Number of subscales: 5

Format(s): ☒ Pencil-and-paper self-administered

☐ Interview

☐ Observation

☐ Computer self-administered

☐ Other

Time required for administration: 5 minutes

Administered by: Respondent

Training required for administration? ☐ yes ☒ no

Comments: *The questionnaire takes between 2 and 5 minutes to administer. In the original format it is important that the test administrator ensure that respondents focus on, as required by the instructions, a recent period of drinking that is typical of their heavy drinking. If asked, they should be briefed to explain that the "Almost Never" option should be endorsed if strictly speaking "Never" applies best to this particular item. Minor problems such as these have been overcome in the latest version of the SADQ. Computerized formats of the SADQ have been developed, and certainly this brief questionnaire lends itself to such a format.*

**SCORING**

Time required to score/interpret: *1 minute*

Scored by: *Clinician or researcher*

Computerized scoring or interpretation available? ☐ yes ☒ no

Norms available? ☒ yes ☐ no

Instrument normed on subgroups? ☒ yes ☐ no

Which groups? *Inpatient, outpatient, and community-based treatment agency attenders in several countries*

**PSYCHOMETRICS**

Have reliability studies been done? ☒ yes ☐ no

What measure(s) of reliability was used?

☒ Test-retest

☐ Split half

☐ Internal consistency

Have validity studies been done? ☒ yes ☐ no

What measures of validity have been derived?

☒ Content

☒ Criterion (predictive, concurrent, "postdictive")

☒ Construct

Comments: *Maximum score: 60; scores greater than 30 correlate with clinicians' ratings of "severe alcohol dependence." Test-retest reliability of 0.85. Factor analysis yields single main factor accounting for 53 percent of variance.*

**CLINICAL UTILITY OF INSTRUMENT**

Prediction of likelihood of achieving control drinking goal; prediction of withdrawal severity; differential diagnosis of primary or secondary phobic anxiety state

RESEARCH APPLICABILITY	Useful for sample description and selection. In current form not designed as an outcome measure.
SOURCE, COST AND COPYRIGHT ISSUES	Copyright: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no Cost: <i>None</i> Source: Tim Stockwell National Drug Research Institute GPO Box U1987 Perth WA 6001 Australia
SOURCE REFERENCE	Stockwell, T., Murphy, D. & Hodgson, R. (1983). The severity of alcohol dependence questionnaire: Its use, reliability and validity. <i>British Journal of Addiction</i> , 78(2), 45-156.
SUPPORTING REFERENCES	Heather, N., Brodie, J., Wale, S., Wilkinson, G., Luce, A., Webb, E. & McCarthy, S. (2000). A randomized controlled trial of Moderation-Oriented Cue Exposure. <i>Journal of Studies on Alcohol</i> , 61(4), 561-570. McCusker, C.G. & Brown, K. (1991). The cue-responsivity phenomenon in dependent drinkers: 'personality' vulnerability and anxiety as intervening variables. <i>British Journal of Addiction</i> , 86, 905-912. Booth, P.G. (1990). Maintained controlled drinking following severe alcohol dependence—a case study. <i>British Journal of Addiction</i> , 85, 315-322. Davidson, R. (1987). Assessment of the alcohol dependence syndrome: A review of self-report screening questionnaires. <i>British Journal of Clinical Psychology</i> , 26(4), 243-256. Edwards, G. (1986). The alcohol dependence syndrome: A concept as stimulus to enquiry. <i>British Journal of Addiction</i> , 81, 171-184.